

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE

ALL-UNIVERSITY OPEN HOUSE CONVOCATION
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

APRIL 12, 1969

I APPRECIATE PARTICIPATING IN THIS ALL-UNIVERSITY OPEN HOUSE CONVOCATION OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AND WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THERE EXISTS A CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THOSE OF US IN GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY. THE PRIMARY MISSION OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE TO MAINTAIN AND TRY TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE. TO YOU, INDIVIDUALLY, THIS MAY INVOLVE YOUR EDUCATION AND THE CONTRIBUTION YOU CAN MAKE SUBSEQUENT TO GRADUATION.

AS A COMMUNITY, IT REQUIRES THE UNIVERSITY TO BECOME INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN THE COMPLEX ARRAY OF SEEMINGLY INSOLUBLE PROBLEMS OF OUR TIME -- PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE SOLVED IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY LIFE AS WE RECOGNIZE IT.

-2-

FOR THE PAST ONE THIRD OF THIS CENTURY, WE HAVE WORRIED ABOUT THE ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE -- WHO RECEIVED WHAT SHARE OF THE ECONOMIC PIE. FOR THE LAST ONE THIRD OF THIS CENTURY, WE MUST ALSO BE CONCERNED WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVE -- POLLUTION, LAND USE, TRANSPORTATION, AND OUR GREATEST PROBLEM, THE DISADVANTAGED, WHETHER THEY BE IN AN URBAN GHETTO OR THE RURAL AREAS OF OUR NATION. IN THE YEARS AHEAD, THE SOLUTIONS TO THESE MATTERS WILL REQUIRE THE THOUGHT AND THE ENERGIES OF ALL OF US, BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT. AS MARK TWAIN ONCE OBSERVED, "LIFE IS JUST ONE DAMNED THING AFTER ANOTHER."

THE WONDER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAS RAISED THE HOPES OF THE DISADVANTAGED THAT THEY WILL SOON BE ABLE TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT. WITH THE EVER INCREASING ABILITY OF OUR FARMERS TO PRODUCE BIGGER YIELDS AND BETTER QUALITY FOOD PRODUCTS, IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO RELIEVE MAN OF WANT: IT IS TO THIS POINT THAT I WISH TO ADDRESS MYSELF TODAY.

THE EXISTENCE OF WIDESPREAD MALNUTRITION IN AMERICA HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO PUBLIC ATTENTION IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS. AT PRESENT, THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS, OF WHICH I AM A MEMBER, IS COMPILING TESTIMONY AND MAKING PERSONAL INVESTI-

-3-

GATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN AN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM AND ARRIVE AT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REMEDIAL LEGISLATION AND POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.

DEFINITIONS

BEFORE PROCEEDING, IT MIGHT BE WELL TO DEFINE THE CONDITIONS TO WHICH I WILL REFER THROUGHOUT THIS DISCUSSION. HUNGER, THE TERM MOST COMMONLY USED WHEN TALKING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM, HAS BOTH A QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DEFINITION. WEBSTER'S 7TH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY DESCRIBES HUNGER AS "A CRAVING OR URGENT NEED FOR FOOD OR A SPECIFIC NUTRIENT". THE EXTREMES OF HUNGER CREATE THE CONDITION OF STARVATION WHICH MAY RESULT IN DEATH.

THE MALNUTRITION THAT SO MANY AMERICANS SUFFER FROM IS INADEQUACY OF A SUBSTANCE OR SUBSTANCES REQUIRED "TO PROMOTE GROWTH" AND NECESSARY "TO REPAIR THE NATURAL WASTAGE OF ORGANIC LIFE".

HUNGER EXISTS AND STARVATION MAY OCCUR AS A RESULT, BUT THE OVERRIDING PROBLEM IS THE EXTENT OF MALNUTRITION AMONG THE POOR.

-4-

THERE ARE MANY CAUSES OF MALNUTRITION ---- IGNORANCE OF THE NEED FOR OR WHAT CONSTITUTES AN ADEQUATE DIET, UNSATISFACTORY HOUSING AND SANITATION THAT RESULTS IN PARASITIC INFESTATION, AS WELL AS THOSE FACTORS THAT CAN BE DETERMINED CLINICALLY AND THAT MAY OCCUR IN PEOPLE AT ALL ECONOMIC LEVELS. BUT THERE ARE NUMEROUS PEOPLE IN THIS AFFLUENT COUNTRY WHO SUFFER FROM MALNUTRITION BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO AFFORD THE RIGHT KINDS OF FOOD.

PRESENT PROGRAMS

THIS AUDIENCE SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS --
THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE UNMET NEEDS.

THERE ARE TWO BASIC PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE FAMILIES FOOD TO PREPARE AND EAT IN THEIR HOMES -- THE COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM AND THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A NEW PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTARY FOODS FOR PREGNANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND SMALL CHILDREN BASED ON MEDICAL DETERMINATIONS.

-5-

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

THE OTHER MAJOR GROUP OF PROGRAMS IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS MEALS IN GROUP SITUATIONS TO CHILDREN, BOTH IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL. IN THIS CATEGORY IS THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE 1946. MORE RECENTLY, UNDER THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 1966, FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDES FOR BREAKFAST PROGRAMS IN QUALIFIED SCHOOLS. THE 90TH SESSION OF CONGRESS APPROVED LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO FEEDING PROGRAMS IN NON-SCHOOL SITUATIONS SUCH AS CHILD CARE CENTERS AND SETTLEMENT HOUSES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND GROUP FEEDING PROGRAMS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS FOR CHILDREN HIGH SCHOOL GRADE AND UNDER.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM IS IMPROVING THE NUTRITION OF ALL CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF THEIR FAMILY'S INCOME. THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO NOT ONLY PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE-THIRD OF THE CHILD'S DAILY REQUIREMENTS OF THE BASIC NUTRIENTS, BUT TEACH THE CHILDREN GOOD NUTRITION THROUGH BECOMING ACCUSTOMED TO EATING WELL-BALANCED MEALS.

-6-

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRESCRIBES MEAL-TYPE REQUIREMENTS FOR THESE PROGRAMS THAT INSURE NUTRITIONALLY ADEQUATE MEALS; PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATES AND TO THE SCHOOLS IN MANY FORMS AND MORE DIRECTLY, CASH REIMBURSEMENT FOR MEALS SERVED, DONATED COMMODITIES, AND THIS YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME, SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS TO ASSIST THE SCHOOLS IN OBTAINING NECESSARY LUNCH ROOM EQUIPMENT.

THE CONGRESS HAS PROVIDED THAT LUNCHES BE SERVED FREE OR AT REDUCED PRICE TO THOSE CHILDREN WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY. HOWEVER, THE FACT IS THAT THERE ARE MILLIONS OF POOR CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM. WE HAVE PASSED LEGISLATION TO HELP CORRECT THIS, AND THE NEWER PROGRAMS UNDER THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT AND THE PROVISION FOR GROUP FEEDING IN NON-SCHOOL SITUATIONS HAVE BEEN AIMED TOWARD REACHING THESE POOR CHILDREN.

-7-

COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

A SECOND PROGRAM PROVIDES FOR COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION. THIS PROGRAM IS OPERATED THROUGH AGREEMENTS WITH STATE AGENCIES; THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUYS THE COMMODITIES AND DELIVERS THEM IN CARLOAD LOTS TO POINTS WITHIN THE STATES. THE STATES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDERING COMMODITIES AND ACCOUNTING FOR THEM AND SUPERVISING THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM IN THE LOCAL AREAS. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, USUALLY THE COUNTY, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY AND ACTUALLY DISTRIBUTING THE COMMODITIES.

THE SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM I MENTIONED EARLIER OPERATES THROUGH HEALTH FACILITIES SERVING THE POOR, AND IS BASED ON MEDICAL DETERMINATIONS THAT THE MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN NEED SUPPLEMENTAL FOODS.

-8-

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO REACH THE SAME GROUP WITH ESSENTIALLY THE SAME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS AS COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION. UNDER THIS PROGRAM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDES THE COUPONS, INCLUDING THE FULL COST OF THE SUBSIDY AS WELL AS ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE LOCAL COST OF ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM. AGAIN, THIS PROGRAM IS OPERATED THROUGH AGREEMENTS WITH STATE PUBLIC WELFARE AGENCIES WHO ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATION WITHIN THE STATE. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPERVISION.

IN GENERAL, UNDER THIS PROGRAM THE FAMILIES PAY ABOUT WHAT THEY WOULD SPEND FOR FOOD EACH MONTH IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PROGRAM AND RECEIVE FOOD COUPONS OR STAMPS THAT ARE WORTH CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THEY PAY. ON A NATIONAL AVERAGE OF ALL INCOMES AND FAMILY SIZES THEY PAY ON THE RATIO OF ABOUT \$6 FOR \$10 WORTH OF COUPONS.

-9-

AS AN EXAMPLE, THE GENERAL SCHEDULE GOVERNING ELIGIBILITY
IN KANSAS FOR A FOUR PERSON FAMILY IS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>USER'S CONTRIBUTION</u>	<u>FOOD STAMPS WORTH</u>
\$20	\$ 2	\$ 52
\$30-40	\$14	\$ 56
\$60-70	\$28	\$ 66
\$110-120	\$48	\$ 82
\$200-220	\$68	\$ 92

BY LAW, THE COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM CANNOT BE UTILIZED
IN AREAS WHERE THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM IS IN EFFECT.

RECENTLY, THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, CLIFFORD M. HARDIN,
OFFERED A PILOT PROGRAM TO SOUTH CAROLINA TO PROVIDE FOOD STAMPS WITH-
OUT COST TO FAMILIES WHO HAVE VERY LITTLE OR NO INCOME IN JASPER AND
BEAUFORT COUNTIES. ALTHOUGH THESE COUNTIES HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD A FOOD
STAMP PROGRAM, THE FAMILIES PAID 50 CENTS PER MONTH PER PERSON, TO GET
FOOD STAMPS WORTH \$58.

-10-

1970 BUDGET

THE FY 1970 BUDGET PROVIDES FOR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CHILD FEEDING PROGRAMS FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES FOR THIS CURRENT YEAR. IN THE PAST FEW YEARS THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAVE INAUGURATED THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM IN ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS, AND ARE NOW OPERATING IN SCHOOLS THAT REPRESENT ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NATIONAL AVERAGE DAILY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. LAST YEAR THERE WERE ABOUT 19 MILLION CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM WITH ABOUT 2.3 MILLION OF THESE CHILDREN RECEIVING THEIR MEALS FREE OR AT REDUCED COST.

WITH INCREASED FUNDS FOR THIS YEAR THE PROGRAM WILL GO INTO MORE SCHOOLS AND WILL BE SERVING ABOUT 1 MILLION MORE NEEDY CHILDREN LUNCHES AT FREE OR REDUCED PRICES. AT THE SAME TIME THE BREAKFAST PROGRAM HAS BEEN GROWING. A VERY HIGH PROPORTION OF THESE BREAKFASTS ARE FREE AND THE OTHERS SERVED AT VERY NOMINAL COST -- 10 OR 15 CENTS.

- 11 -

I HAVE GONE INTO DETAIL HERE TO SHOW THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE. NEVERTHELESS, MANY NEEDS REMAIN AND THE PROBLEMS OF MEETING THESE NEEDS ARE GREAT.

A MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE MOTIVATION OF AND SECURING SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES. REGARDLESS OF THE MECHANISM IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, SUCCESS OF THESE PROGRAMS IN MEETING THE UNMET NEED DEPENDS ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOW EITHER A FOOD STAMP OR COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM IN EVERY ONE OF THE 1,000 LOWEST INCOME COUNTIES, THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEM IN MAKING THE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO NEED THIS ASSISTANCE. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE OVER 450 COUNTIES AND INDEPENDENT CITIES LEFT IN THE COUNTRY WHICH HAVE NO FAMILY FOOD ASSISTANCE ALTHOUGH RESIDENTS OF THESE AREAS WOULD OTHERWISE BE ELIGIBLE.

WHEREVER THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OF THE PROGRAMS, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO TAKE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE APPROPRIATE PROGRAM.

- 11 1/2 -

- KANSAS -

HERE IN KANSAS AS OF FEBRUARY 1969 THERE WERE 3,060 PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM IN 8 COUNTIES. SINCE THAT TIME, 3 OTHER COUNTIES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM AND NEOSHO COUNTY WILL ENTER BY MAY. ADDITIONALLY, ON APRIL 2, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE REQUESTING HARVEY AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES BE ADMITTED TO THE PROGRAM.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM IS OPERATING, 11,088 PEOPLE IN 14 COUNTIES IN KANSAS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMODITY DONATION PROGRAM.

IT WOULD APPEAR FROM THESE STATISTICS THAT THE STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS IN KANSAS ARE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO A GREATER NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES.

- 12 -

- IDENTIFYING PROBLEM -

AS AN AID TO LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS IN IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM, A NATIONAL NUTRITION SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT. THIS IS A SURVEY OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES IN THE LOWEST QUARTER INCOME BRACKETS IN 10 WIDELY SCATTERED STATES, CONDUCTED BY SPECIALLY TRAINED MEDICAL PERSONNEL. PRELIMINARY RESULTS HAVE DISCLOSED THAT:

ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN EXAMINED EXHIBIT SIGNS OF ANEMIA SUCH AS FATIGUE, LISTLESSNESS, AN INABILITY TO PERFORM.

GROWTH RETARDATION, OFTEN COMPANION TO PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE, IS COMMON.

33% OF THE CHILDREN EXAMINED UNDER 6 SHOW SIGNS OF VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY, UNKNOWN TO ANY CHILD WHO SIMPLY DRINKS ENOUGH MILK.

THERE ARE CHILDREN IN THIS COUNTRY WHO HAVE RICKETS AND SCURVY AND BERIBERI, MARASMUS AND KWASNIORKOR. THESE ARE DISEASES COMMON IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH FAMINE.

-13-

THIS NATIONAL NUTRITION SURVEY AND MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
INDICATE MALNUTRITION IS A VERY REAL PROBLEM IN AMERICA. (DISCUSS)

IMPORTANCE OF PROTEIN

PROTEIN DEPRIVED CHILDREN DO NOT LEARN AS WELL IN THEIR FORMATIVE YEARS AS THEIR WELL-FED COUNTERPARTS. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THEIR MENTAL CAPACITY, BECAUSE OF RETARDED BRAIN GROWTH, IS PERMANENTLY IMPAIRED. ADDED TO THIS IS THE IMPACT OF MATERNAL MALNUTRITION. DR. JOHN A. CHURCHILL OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES AND BLINDNESS SAYS THAT MATERNAL MALNUTRITION MAY BE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSE OF A HOST OF SUBTLE BIRTH DEFECTS, FROM LOWER INTELLIGENCE TO SPEECH AND HEARING IMPEDIMENTS.

PROTEIN MALNUTRITION IS CONDEMNING FUTURE GENERATIONS TO POOR PERFORMANCE. THE MOST PERNICIOUS CYCLE IS THAT WHERE PEOPLE ARE TOO POOR TO EAT WELL, THEY DEVELOP POORLY. UNABLE TO ACHIEVE, THEY

-14-

POSSIBLY GET POORER. OBVIOUSLY, IF PERSONAL AND NATIONAL GOALS ARE TO BE ACHIEVED, THIS CYCLE MUST BE BROKEN. PROTEIN MALNUTRITION IS A BLOCK TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

FORTIFIED FOODS

MANY GROUPS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, HAVE DEVELOPED FOOD FORMULAS TO MEET THIS PROBLEM OF PROTEIN MALNUTRITION. SUCH A FOOD PREPARATION MUST MEET STRINGENT STANDARDS OF NUTRITIONAL QUALITY, AND AT THE SAME TIME BE AVAILABLE IN LARGE QUANTITIES AT LOW COST. THE FOOD MUST BE TRANSPORTABLE WITHOUT PROBLEMS, EASILY PREPARED FOR USE, AND READILY ACCEPTABLE BY THE CHILDREN.

THE UNITED STATES MILLING AND BULGUR INDUSTRIES HAVE FORMULATED SUCH A FOOD PRODUCT BASED ON WHEAT. IT IS PRECOOKED AND DESIGNED FOR USE AS A BEVERAGE GRUEL, SOUP OR DESSERT. IT IS CALLED

-15-

WHEAT SOYA BLEND. ANOTHER OF THE LOW COST, HIGH PROTEIN FOODS IS C.S.M. -- A CORN SOYA MILK BLEND. KANSAS MAY PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH FOOD PRODUCTS, AS BULGUR IS ALREADY BEING PRODUCED IN HUTCHINSON BY THE FARMERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

OUR EFFORTS

WE MUST EXPLOIT TO THE FULLEST THESE NEW CAPABILITIES OF OUR FOOD SCIENCES TO HELP ATTAIN BETTER NUTRITION. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT, I URGED IN A MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF HEW, ROBERT H. FINCH, AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, CLIFFORD M. HARDIN, THAT WE FULLY EXPLORE THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED FOODS. PURSUANT TO THAT MEETING, I JOINED MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES ON THE NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS COMMITTEE IN URGING THE APPOINTMENT OF A "PRIVATE SECTOR TASK FORCE" COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF UNIVERSITIES, FOOD COMPANIES AND OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO STUDY THIS MATTER IN DEPTH.

-16-

TO ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING OUR PROBLEMS IN KANSAS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE ACTION, I AM APPOINTING A COMMITTEE TO BE CHAIRED BY _____, WHICH WILL REPORT TO ME WITHIN THE NEXT 3 MONTHS.

IN ELIMINATING MALNUTRITION, THE COMBINED FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE VOLUNTARY RESOURCES MUST BE MARSHALLED TO PROVIDE NUTRITION EDUCATION AND HOMEMAKERS TRAINING IN BUYING, PREPARING AND SERVING NUTRITIOUS MEALS. KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, THROUGH ITS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IS MAKING A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION IN THIS AREA. SPECIAL U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDS WERE OFFERED TO KANSAS TO "HELP FAMILIES GET MORE FOR THE DOLLARS THEY SPEND FOR FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES".

THE K.S.U. EXTENSION AIDES WILL WORK DIRECTLY WITH LIMITED INCOME FAMILIES IN THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS BY SUGGESTING WAYS TO IMPROVE SKILLS IN SHOPPING, SELECTING FOOD, PLANNING MEALS, AND USING AVAILABLE COMMODITIES.

-17-

PRESIDENT'S POSITION

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT PRESIDENT NIXON RECOGNIZES THE COM-
PLEXITY AND THE GRAVITY OF THE PROBLEM I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH YOU TODAY.
ON FEBRUARY 3, 1969, IN TALKING TO THE TOP LEVELS OF USDA EMPLOYEES,
HE SAID:

"BUT I KNOW THAT ALL OF YOU ARE AWARE, AS I AM, THAT
THOSE SURPLUSES ARE A GREAT BOUNTY FOR THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA. IT MEANS THAT WE CAN EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH THE
PROBLEMS OF HUNGER IN THIS COUNTRY AND HELP WITH THE PROBLEMS
OF HUNGER IN THE WORLD BECAUSE WE ARE ABLE TO PRODUCE SO MUCH.

"SO THAT PRESENTS THE CHALLENGE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN IN
THIS ROOM, THE LEADERS OF THIS DEPARTMENT, THOSE UPON WHOM
THE SECRETARY IS GOING TO RELY TO OBTAIN THE ADVICE SO THAT
WE CAN EFFECTIVELY USE THIS TREMENDOUS PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY
WHICH THIS DEPARTMENT HAS HELPED TO BUILD THROUGH THE YEARS;
SO THAT WE CAN EFFECTIVELY USE IT IN A SCIENTIFIC WAY TO
ATTACK THE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER, OF MALNUTRITION AND ALL OF ITS
ASSETS IN THIS NATION, AND THEREBY ALSO TO SET PERHAPS AN
EXAMPLE TO OTHER NATIONS IN THE WORLD.

-18-

"IT IS AN EXCITING PROBLEM. IT IS ONE IN WHICH I HAVE ASKED THE SECRETARY TO ASSUME A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MEETINGS IN THE CABINET AND IN THE OTHER VARIOUS GROUPS IN WHICH HE SITS AND WHICH I AM ALSO PRESENT. WE ARE GOING TO WORK ON THIS PROBLEM."

CONCLUSION

CERTAINLY, IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE. WE NEED THE CONCERNED INTEREST OF EVERYONE HERE. BUT WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS CAN YOU MAKE IN MEETING THIS NEW FRESH CHALLENGE? AS STUDENTS OF SCIENCE, ECONOMICS, SOCIOLOGY, AND ALL THE OTHER SPECIALIZATIONS, THERE IS ROOM FOR NEW SUGGESTIONS -- NEW LEADS. HOW CAN WE USE OUR LIMITED BUDGETS MOST CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THIS EFFORT TO SAVE AND IMPROVE LIVES? NUTRITION IS A KEY TO A BETTER FUTURE.

TO YOU MEN AND WOMEN, THIS IS A DOMESTIC CHALLENGE WORTHY OF YOUR TALENTS AND INVOLVEMENT.

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